
Village of Mamaroneck/Save the Sound Statement on Water Quality Efforts

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Joint Press Release – Village of Mamaroneck and Save the Sound

Subject: Reducing Bacteria levels in Long Island Sound

The Village of Mamaroneck and Save the Sound are pleased to report the results of the positive, cooperative efforts that have come to fruition, through surveys, inspections and investigation into problem areas around the Village of Mamaroneck and the Mamaroneck Harbor. Through a joint investigative effort of the Village, Save the Sound and the Village's consulting engineers with Arcadis, several sewage leaks and discharges have been discovered and repaired around the Village of Mamaroneck, which will greatly improve and lower bacteria levels in Mamaroneck Harbor and in turn will benefit Long Island Sound.

"The quality of life that will be our legacy to the future generations is a paramount responsibility of all caring citizens"Village of Mamaroneck Mayor Norman Rosenblum further noted.... "Our Village, being a 'Sound Shore' community, is particularly sensitive to the environmental effects of flooding and pollution and the enjoined efforts of ***Save the Sound*** and the Village have been extremely successful. I look forward to this continued effort that bodes well for our children and all future generations where we leave our community a better place than when we enjoyed it."

The Village, Save the Sound, and the Village's consulting engineers and technicians with Arcadis, Inc., have been working diligently jointly on a program to discover illegal sewage discharges around the Village. This is called an Illegal Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE). Jointly, we have been seeking to track down and correct problems around the Village that have caused the release of sewage-contaminated water into the storm drains and waterways of the Village.

"Finding, and more importantly fixing, these pollution sources highlights how Save the Sound, community volunteers and a dedicated Village can solve serious water quality problems together. ~We thank our volunteers for their dedication and applaud the Village of Mamaroneck for its quick action," said Curt Johnson, executive director of Save the Sound. "Save the Sound hopes to expand its role next summer by training more volunteers, working with Harborwatch's certified lab and collaborating with additional towns to build on the success of this partnership. ~By tracking down and fixing these widespread sewage leaks and other illegal discharges, we can reopen our beaches and protect water quality along our Westchester coast," Johnson stated.

As the result of these coordinated efforts, we have the following positive update and news on corrective actions to report:

- Thirty seven (37) dye-test letters were sent out to neighborhood homes along the neighborhoods along Halstead Avenue, east of the Mamaroneck River. As the result of this dye-test program, a single-family home was discovered to exist without a sewer line connecting the house to the sewer. It is reported that corrective actions have been implemented and the sanitary sewer lines have properly connected as of this date, ending the discharge of raw sewage into the storm drain lines.
- An illicit discharge was discovered at a stream crossing by Harmon Avenue in an abandoned sewer line that was leaking and allowing sewage to get into the abandoned line, discharging sewage into the Sheldrake River. A concrete plug was repaired, and an additional two feet of line were fully plugged to prevent further leaks.
- A broken sewer lateral line was discovered along the banks of the Otter Creek. Ownership of the line was investigated and confirmed, the owner was notified to make immediate repairs to the line, and a repair of the line was implemented within approximately forty eight (48) hours. The Building Department will be coordinating further with this property to implement a full upgrade of the line through acceptable industry means and methods, since the rest of the sewer line has reached the end of its useful life.
- Investigations behind a retail food store, near their garbage containers, discovered grease and fecal coliform bacteria leaking from a garbage container. The Building Department has been coordinating corrective action with the business to effect immediate and long-term corrective measures to prevent future occurrences.

- The Village is continuing our weekly field-vacuuming efforts in Harbor Island Park and Columbus Park, to remove goose droppings and reduce the amount of animal fecal coliform being washed into the rivers and into the Harbor and Long Island Sound. In the meantime we are exploring various means to scare and chase away the geese, to help reduce the goose-waste problem further.

The results of these coordinated efforts are visible in the improved bacteria levels that have been tested and provided to the Village by the Westchester County Health Department, which noted the Village's efforts appear to be making headway to improving the water quality at the beaches in Mamaroneck Harbor and in the Long Island Sound.

This improvement is the result of a broad based team and community effort, and all involved who helped are thanked for their assistance.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of Save the Sound and the volunteers they coordinated, as well as the efforts coordinated through our engineers and IDDE investigators with Arcadis.

We have shared this information on our progress with the EPA, and they are encouraged that this work and these coordinated efforts should go a long way towards achieving cleaner water in our rivers, in the Mamaroneck Harbor, and in the Long Island Sound.